

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter contained in claims 8, 12 and 14 if rewritten into independent form.

Claims 1-7, 9-11, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ihara et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0202051A1). In response, Applicants amended independent claim 1 to clarify that when an attempt to receive the selected standard radio wave signal and the forced receiving operation is unsuccessful, a receiving means continues to receive the next selected standard radio wave signal unless all the standard radio wave signals have been received, and when an attempt to receive the selected standard radio wave signal in the time-programmed receiving operation is unsuccessful, the receiving means stops the receiving operation.

Claim 6 is also amended to clarify that when an attempt to receive the standard radio wave signal in the forced receiving operation is unsuccessful, the receiving means continues to receive the standard radio wave signal again unless the standard radio wave signal has been received a predetermined number of times, and when an attempt to receive the standard radio wave signal in the time-programmed receiving operation is unsuccessful, the receiving means stops the receiving operation. Applicants traverse the rejection based on these amendments.

Ihara is directed to a radio corrected clock. In the outstanding rejection on page 2 under item 3, the Examiner asserts that the first S22 and second S24 receiving methods shown in FIG. 3 of Ihara correspond to the time-programmed or forced receiving

operations of the present invention. However, assuming *arguendo* that this assertion is correct, Ihara still fails disclose or suggest in steps S22 or S24 that when an attempt to receive the selected standard radio wave signal in the time-programmed receiving operation is unsuccessful, then the receiving means stops the receiving operation. Instead, in both of these steps when there is an unsuccessful signal reception they proceed to steps S24 or S26, respectively, and receive a 60KHz format of a station. Therefore, Ihara fails to disclose or suggest at least this feature of amended claim 1. Claim 6 similarly includes a feature of wherein when an attempt to receive the standard radio wave signal in the time-programmed receiving station is unsuccessful, the receiving means stops the receiving operation.

Additionally, claim 6 calls for when an attempt to receive the standard radio wave signal in the forced receiving operation is unsuccessful, the receiving means continues to receive the standard radio wave signal again unless the standard radio wave signal has been received a predetermined number of times. Applicants respectfully submit that Ihara fails to disclose or suggest a forced receiving operation wherein when it is unsuccessful, the standard radio wave signal is continued to be received a predetermined number of times.

In contrast, the features of amended claim 1 are shown in FIG. 13, and those of claim 6 are shown in FIG. 2. Thus, an operational flow of the radio controlled time piece of the present invention is more specified. As is shown in FIG. 13, a flow of an operation of a radio controlled time piece which achieves both energy savings and simplicity of operation is shown. In step S112, when an attempt to receive the selected standard radio wave signal in the forced receiving operation is unsuccessful, operational flow goes to “N” or no, and a

receiving means continues to receive the next selected standard radio wave signal at step S114. When all of the standard radio wave signals have been received and an attempt results in unsuccessful as shown in step S115, the operational flow goes to “N” and a message showing failure of the reception as displayed at step S109 and then the operation is ended.

In the time-programmed receiving operation shown in FIG. 13, the receiving means tries to receive one selected standard radio time signal at step S102 or S103. When the attempt of reception is unsuccessful at step S104, the operational flow goes to “N” and the message of failure is displayed at step S109 and the operation ends. A ground for unsuccessfulness of a receiving operation can occur due to various reasons, and is not limited to those situations of an unreliable received signal as shown in, for example, step S104 of FIG. 13.


Advantageously, the flow described in FIG. 13 (or FIG. 2) provides more reception number in the forced receiving operation than in the time-programmed operation when there are unsuccessful receptions. Since FIG. 2 shows similar features as that of FIG. 13, Applicants respectfully reassert the arguments provided above with respect to FIG. 13 and claim 1 to the rejection of independent claim 6 as it applies to FIG. 2. Since Ihara fails to disclose or suggest the above-described features of amended independent claims 1 and 6, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claims 1-7, 9-11, and 13 is respectfully requested.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

If a Petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for response is required to make the attached response timely, it is hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for response in the above-identified application for the period required to make the attached response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this Application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069.

Respectfully submitted,

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